

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 204 – HB 1318

February 20, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Declares that it is not an offense under the Tennessee Nongame and Endangered or Threatened Wildlife Species Conservation Act to disturb the habitat of, alter, take, attempt to take, possess, transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale, or ship a black vulture in this state, also known as the *Coragyps atratus*. Prohibits the use of state funds, personnel, or other state resources to be used for enforcing any prohibition against the specified types of disturbances to the black vulture.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Black vultures are protected under federal law and TWRA personnel are federally commissioned.
- TWRA does not receive any federal funding for the purpose of protecting the black vulture species.
- Based on the information provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, agency personnel would be prohibited from participating in any federal enforcement or investigation; federal offenses would prevail and be enforced by federal agents.
- Few resources, if any, of the TWRA have been dedicated towards the enforcement of federal law that protects the black vulture species.
- According to TWRA, the agency has not issued any citations over the last ten years for any type of disturbance to black vultures. As a result, any fiscal impact to state government is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the County Technical Assistance Service, few local government resources, if any, have been dedicated towards the enforcement of federal law that protects the black vulture species.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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